

POINT

THE TOC H MAGAZINE

3

July 1997



TOC H

Bringing people together

POINT 3

Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H fights to break down barriers by challenging individuals' preconceptions of others and the divisions which exist in society. While its work is based on Christian principles, all faiths and none are recognised and accepted.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems such as loneliness, isolation and deprivation through an approach which focuses on self-help and taking responsibility for oneself and the local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to emphasise four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its membership. The Four Points of the Toc H Compass are:

1 Friendship: 'To Love Widely'

to 'welcome all in friendship'.

2 Service: 'To Build Bravely'

to 'give personal service'.

3 Fairmindedness: 'To Think Fairly'

to 'listen always to the views of others'.

4 The Kingdom of God: 'To Witness Humbly'

to 'acknowledge the spiritual nature of man'.

Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H, and derives its title from the third Point of the Toc H Compass. It acts as a vehicle for communication between staff and members, informing, encouraging and stimulating readers on topical and relevant issues. Contributions are welcome from any group or individual involved in Toc H.

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Cover Photo: Brixworth Country Park

Toc H is an active Movement of people practising reconciliation by being open to all in friendship, offering service in the community, confronting intolerance and prejudice, and discovering a faith to live by. We bring the Toc H experience to as many people as possible to develop personal growth and build caring communities.

Registered Charity No. 211042

MEETING LIFE'S CHALLENGES

Eighty-two years of friendship and service is a remarkable achievement by any standard one cares to name. And this is exactly what Toc H and several generations of Toc H members will have achieved when our Movement next celebrates its birthday on December 11th 1997.

Throughout the past eight decades, the Toc H way has helped countless people, members and many others, to meet the many challenges that life has thrown at them. If Toc H has a unique selling point, then surely this is what it is. Certainly this is the theme of the 1996/97 Annual Review, a copy of which is enclosed with this issue of Point 3. The Review, as usual, reflects on the past year as well as looking forward to new horizons. It focuses especially on the reflections of a number of individuals, representing the full membership ambience of the Movement, and how the Toc H way has helped them to meet their challenges and, as a consequence, changed their lives.

As always, every Toc H Member receives their personal copy to read, enjoy, and, I hope, share. We have distributed the Review together with your July issue of Point 3 in order to save on mailing costs.

We hope you take pleasure in the 1996/97 Annual Review and, remember, extra copies are available to pass on to others.

Mike Lyddiard

Mike Lyddiard
Director

INFORMATION FROM . . . THE FINANCE AND PROPERTIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Following its meeting on the 9th June the Finance and Properties Sub-committee would like to make readers aware of the following issues:

Covenants

In the light of the comments received about the recent changes to the system for administering covenants, a review will be conducted with the aim of finding a more workable alternative.

Receipts

To cut down on administration, the Finance Department will no longer be issuing receipts, except for cash, unless requested.

ANOTHER MILESTONE TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM

The Brixworth Countryside Access For All Project passed another milestone on Friday 6th June, when work officially began on site for the construction of a new Visitors' Centre and facilities. A launch ceremony to mark the occasion took place at Brixworth Country Park and was attended by local dignitaries, representatives from the Millennium Commission and the local business community, along with individuals from the four organisations who, in partnership, are responsible for the scheme; namely Anglian Water, The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Northamptonshire County Council and, of course, Toc H.

Out in force, Toc H was represented not only by members of the local Branches, but by a contingent of Central Services staff, anxious to see for themselves this much talked about project. Needless to say, Harry and Megan Graham - the Toc H linchpins behind the whole initiative - were in lively attendance.

Speeches, a light buffet and the opportunity to see the Park were the order of the day. Having dug the first turf for the construction workers, the invited speakers addressed guests about Brixworth. Councillor Tony Allen, Chair of Northants County Council, praised the project for its focus on partnership, emphasising that it "does pay and can pay" and that each of the four partners was playing an equal part in the scheme. Referring to Harry Graham as "the little fellow with glasses", he praised Harry's enthusiasm, which had shown no bounds, and also the importance of Brixworth in leaving a legacy for future generations.



Hard hats must be worn!

The first turf is dug for the new Visitors Centre and facilities by invited guests and speakers.

Representing Anglian Water, David Moore explained how despite being in existence for forty years, the Pitsford reservoir, on which the Park is located, has always lacked "something for all". Through this initiative the Park and its features can soon be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of ability or age.

Harry - "the little fellow with glasses" - chose to focus on his area of responsibility, the finances, emphasising that much still needs to be done to meet the match funding targets required by the Millennium Commission.

Joseph James spoke on behalf of the Millennium Commission - a key funder in the project - and explained how the Brixworth initiative was viewed as a flagship scheme for the Commission. One of the first six capital funding awards made by the Commission, Brixworth was chosen as an exemplary project, offering a fine illustration of how to successfully combine two of the core themes of Millennium funding: access - both physical and intellectual - and the environment. He highlighted how the enterprise goes beyond offering the public the traditional 'view and a picnic' approach to country parks. At Brixworth, visitors will be

continued ...

encouraged to explore their surroundings, to learn about the countryside and interpret it for themselves. Finally, he praised the widespread consultation which has taken place with the local community, to ensure all needs and views are taken into consideration in the development. He felt confident that the scheme would make a difference.

Throughout the speeches the emphasis was on a theme dear to Toc H's heart - bringing people of all abilities together to share their talents and experiences. The aim of the partnership set up to develop the countryside's potential at Brixworth, echoes the Toc H objective - to bring people together from all walks of life, regardless of age, ability or resources, to

share in a wide range of social, cultural, educational and leisure opportunities.

Sarah Claridge

Communications Officer/Editor



The speakers, in full flow.

THE NEW VISITORS FACILITIES

The new facilities will form the hub of this "Countryside for All" Millennium project, acting as a gateway to people's discovery of a rich and exciting countryside. The Centre will comprise a new visitor centre, cafeteria, cycle-hire and bunk-house accommodation. True to the project's ethos of "access for all", these new facilities have been designed so that they will be accessible to everyone, including disabled people and people with sensory impairments. It is a design which has been developed in consultation with the Northamptonshire Council for the Disabled. The new Visitor Centre, staffed by Countryside Rangers and Information Assistants, will provide a base from which to discover and learn about nature in and around the Country Park. It will be a place to enhance the visits of everyone to the countryside.

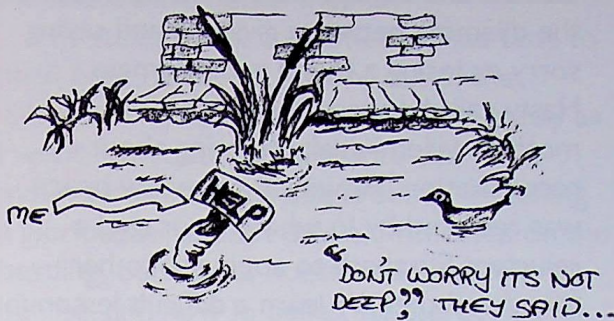
TOC H AND BRIXWORTH COUNTRY PARK

The Brixworth Park Project was awarded £736,000 Millennium Commission Grant in 1995. The Toc H matching funding need is £200,000 in cash or help in kind. Some of our matching funding support is in the labour of our volunteers, and Toc H Projects are regularly held at the Park. Some of the features the volunteers have constructed include picnic benches, a tarmacked walkway and a pond, all built with access for wheelchairs in mind. The report opposite recounts one such Project weekend.



Sally Simms gives Central Services Staff a grand tour.

A CONSERVATION WEEKEND AT BRIXWORTH COUNTRY PARK FRIDAY 30TH MAY - SUNDAY 1ST JUNE



Chris, under water

Friday evening - everyone arrived. There were seven of us including the leaders. We marvelled at the mountain range of food already arranged out in front of us, thanks mostly to the work done by Sally Simms. There was no work to do except to get to know the group. The evening meal, beer and chat helped to loosen everyone up and it seemed as if the group would work fairly well together over the rest of the weekend.

Saturday Morning - There was work to be done - no time for fuzzy heads now. Lined up outside and, from my point of view a little apprehensive, we found out what the wardens had in store. There were two tasks; the first was to build a wooden picnic-table complete with seats and backrest, the second, to excavate the floor of a pond which had become silted up. A picnic table was to be positioned close to the path so that there was ease of access for disabled as well as able bodied people. Much of the work would be digging the foundations for the logs that would form the supports for the structure. The digging theme was extended to the pond, where large amounts of tacky clay had to be removed from an overly shallow portion of the pond bed, bucket-and-spade style. I can vouch for the success of this endeavour through a very close encounter but that comes later...

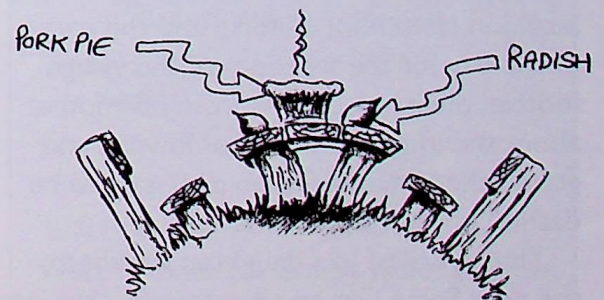
Saturday Afternoon - was hot - sunny in fact

- perfect weather to get a tan and get fit making holes. With this in mind (and armed with gallons of factor concrete suntan lotion) the progress being made accelerated as volunteers gained competence through practice, and could see real results for their labours. Every now and again a very damp and muddy pond digger would "schlop" up the hill, always with a smile on their face, so it must have been fun! By six o'clock, seven weary excavators plodded up the hill ready for food - the chip-shop fare and a relaxing evening were well deserved.

Sunday and the final day - We continued the work of Saturday, but this time everyone was just working on the picnic-table. Everything seemed to be coming together - we knew that we were meant to be leaving at about two in the afternoon and it became our mission to complete the job. Then, finally, in the afternoon sunshine, there was the table in all its woody glory. It only remained to tidy up, have some food and then try to throw me in the pond! I was the only one that hadn't been in over the weekend, so in I went. Obviously it wouldn't have been fair to keep all of the water to myself, so I thought "best spread it amongst friends!"

That was it, more or less. There was the pork pie and three radishes - but that's another story!!

Chris Paterson
BADTAG



The pork pie and three radishes - will Chris write and tell us more?

Cartoons by Chris Paterson

A MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE...



In a delightful cottage in Rhes-y-Cae on Halkyn mountain lives Jo Whiteside, our Cheshire Development Officer for the Families and People under Pressure scheme. My recent visit to the scheme was accompanied by an invitation from Jo to call in for a chat over some supper. Little did I expect the experience which was to follow!.....

The village of Rhes-y-Cae is all you'd expect a remote Welsh village to be - quiet, tranquil, peaceful and surrounded by glorious mountain scenery. Everything you need to lead a calm, placid existence. It was, then, somewhat of a contrast to find a lively, bustling chaotic lifestyle hidden behind Jo's front door. Greeted on arrival by an affectionate, bumbling golden Labrador, I was shown into a stylish, yet homely cottage where Jo and I settled down to talk 'shop'. That was until...Jo's children arrived home from school.

First came her son, Ben, aching to abandon his school uniform and the cares of the day for the freedom of the village football pitch. Assertions from his mother about the importance of homework and good school-marks fell on deaf ears as he dashed off to meet his friends.

The arrival of Jo's daughter, Elizabeth - the next Spice Girl by all accounts - brought with it a major family crisis. Plans to celebrate Elizabeth's birthday the next day were threatened with disaster due to a

major break-up between Elizabeth and her best friend - the guest-to-be at the celebrations. Elizabeth's tears conveyed the distress and unhappiness of hurt pride and the dilemma between giving in and saying sorry or losing a friend and playmate. Hasty calls between the respective mothers failed initially to bring about reconciliation. However an uneasy peace was restored by Jo who encouraged a reluctant Elizabeth to apologise to her friend and thereby learn a difficult lesson in human relationships.

The return to our chat about Toc H affairs was to be short-lived... a sudden shriek from the kitchen hailed the return of Ben and the dog. The violent exclamation was in response to the dog having suddenly regurgitated something on to the kitchen floor. That 'something' was identified as a sheep's 'abscess' by Ben, causing Jo and I to gasp and look at each other horrified, yet mystified. Jo's realisation that it was in fact a sheep's afterbirth stiffened her resolve to stay as far away as possible from the dog's offering. The ensuing heated debate between Jo and Ben as to who would clean up the mess was conducted through closed doors - Jo being unable to face the sight on the floor. Needless to say the adult won the battle.

The offer to stay for supper was an inviting one, and with time moving on Jo made the suggestion we 'eat in', to which I happily agreed. Happily agreed that is, until Jo decided to offer me her son's plate of pre-prepared supper. It was not the food that I felt uneasy about - it looked delicious - but the thought of depriving a growing eleven year old of his food. Jo assured me all was well and proceeded to try and microwave the dish. However Jo and microwaves do not make a happy pair! A girl after my own heart, Jo readily admits to being hopeless at cooking. Like myself

continued ...

she remains in the kitchen no longer than the time it takes to make a cup of tea. That said, even I understood the complex working of the microwave better than Jo!

My 'stolen' meal consumed, it was time to head back home. As I drove out of the village, with Jo and Elizabeth waving madly as I went, my route took me into the mountainous countryside around. Watching a glorious sunset as I drove, I reflected on the bustling, boisterous household I had left behind, and how Jo belies the stereotype of her background as a vicar's daughter - someone more different from the traditional image you couldn't hope to find!

Sarah Claridge

Communications Officer/Editor

The purpose of my visit to the Cheshire Scheme was to meet and interview a number of the participants for this year's Annual Review. Paula, who is now a Long Term Volunteer for the Group, told me her story:

"I'VE STOPPED RUNNING AWAY..."

For seven years, as a young, single, unemployed mother, I spent my life on the run from a violent ex-partner. My nomadic existence brought me and my son to Cheshire where my circumstances left me feeling depressed and worthless. I was caught in a vicious circle of low self-esteem, where I bottled up my fears and sought the solution to my depression in pills and anti-depressants. I was also a stranger in the town, in need of adult stimulation to get me out of the house and away from the endless monotony of housework and kids.

My salvation was Toc H"....

To read the rest of Paula's story and find out just how Toc H helped and inspired her, turn to your copy of the 1996/7 Annual Review enclosed with this issue of Point 3.

CENTRAL COUNCILLOR ELECTION RESULTS

Mid Eastern Region

Seat No 103	Harry Graham
Seat No 106	Margaret Sinnicks
Seat No 109	Thelma Selfe (re-elected)
Seat No 112	EMPTY

North Eastern Region

Seat No 201 (by-election)	Anne Puddicombe
Seat No 203	Alison Newby
Seat No 206	Keith Watson

North Wales & North West Region

Seat No 303	Irene Clayton
Seat No 306	Noreen Douglas
Seat No 309	Edward Pym

Scottish Region

Seat No 403	Ann Gibson
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Southern Region

Seat No 503	EMPTY
Seat No 506	Brian Collins (re-elected)
Seat No 507 (by-election)	EMPTY

South Eastern Region

Seat No 603	Roy Cameron (re-elected)
Seat No 606	Peter Ellis
Seat No 609	An Kestier
Seat No 612	Connie Pring
Seat No 615	Jean Whiteman

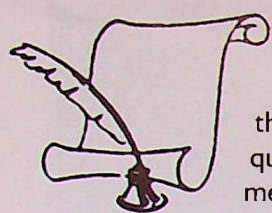
South Western Region

Seat No 702 (by-election)	EMPTY
Seat No 703	Daphne Dawes
Seat No 706	John Weir
Seat No 709	John Perkins

West Midlands & South Wales Region

Seat No 803	Margaret Davies (re-elected)
Seat No 806	Christine Williams

POWER IN POETRY CAMEO



The original aim of the weekend was to look at the issue of power through poetry and ask the question "What does power mean to you?" Alongside this was the idea of writing being powerful in itself.

The springboard for looking at power was going to be a game called "Star Power" lasting about one hour and enabling people to get in touch with how it feels to hold power. Unfortunately, the Host organising this game had to drop out due to unforeseen circumstances so the main aim of the weekend shifted slightly to envelop more fully the latent creativity within each participant. This actually worked in our favour and the issue of power was opened up and broken down into numerous meanings. We achieved this by looking at newspapers and cutting out 'powerful stories,' three creative writing sessions; a brainstorm and a visit to Brimham Rocks. The weekend concentrated on creative approaches e.g. writing and art, and developed new ways of getting in touch with our spirituality through circle dancing and poetic expression.

This Cameo was a direct result of a training event that took place in October '96. The event had been publicised quite a lot in the local paper and by putting up posters in Thirsk/Sowerby and Northallerton. Consequently a new area has been targeted and information about Toc H may slowly start to filter through by word of mouth. Although the weekend did not result in an increase in membership, a few people asked for an Events brochure and showed interest in participating in future Toc H events.

The unexpected was achieved in the sense that there was a remarkable bonding between the participants as they shared something of themselves. Also everybody was amazed at how creative they became in the 'safe' environment that we had ourselves created. We intend to meet for a reunion in the next month or so, and we have all exchanged names and addresses in the hope that we will maintain a network. A sequel to this event may be organised for late summer/autumn and it will be hard not to expect such a 'success' again. The expectation shall be

for something 'different' rather than the 'same' or 'better.' Personally, I found that I enjoyed being a Host (a term used by one of us as a brilliant alternative to Leader) and look forward to experiencing another challenge in that role. I would also like to thank Toc H for giving me this opportunity to grow and develop my skills.

Deborah Brownlee
Thirsk

One of the poems composed over the weekend:

*Come and meet each other
We gather, a small group,
In a place called Glasshouses
What does that conjure up
Fragile, delicate, vulnerable.
The world can see on in
No brick and mortar privacy,
A bit like life really -
Amongst those solid stone buildings
We try to demystify the illusion
Of power over peace.
The media hype banners are
conspicuously absent
In rolling countryside.
Powerful hills and dales
Greet us with open arms.*

Sean

A further selection of the poems written during the Cameo will be published in the Artists Corner series in a later edition of Point 3.

LOOKING FOR A VENUE IN THE NORTH?

"Power in Poetry" took place at "The Mill", Glasshouses, near Pateley Bridge and the venue had not, to my knowledge, been used by Toc H previously. It was cheap (£7.25 per person from Friday evening till Sunday teatime), the minimum charge was for 12 people and it was adequate for our needs. However, more than 12 people would be difficult to accommodate in the workshop/eating area. Seven people were involved and although we had hoped for more, it seemed the 'perfect number'. I would suggest that anyone using the venue in the future takes along cushions plus a rug, as the floor is a little cold and unwelcoming and the chairs rather uncomfortable.

DB

DISCOVERING PRAYER



In the February issue of Point 3, earlier this year, I wrote an article about prayer, stressing its importance but recognising also the difficulty many of us have with it. If that touched a chord then it may be you are on the lookout for some way of overcoming those problems and opening up a previously undiscovered dimension to your prayer life. For me just such a dimension was found last year when, preparing for a Quiet Weekend, I came across a video titled 'The Seven Circles of Prayer'. That sounds heavy, you might think, but the beauty of the film was that it wasn't. There was none of the religious jargon you might associate with prayer, no axe to grind, no hard sell. Instead, using simple everyday language and beginning from our daily experience, prayer was approached in a way that suddenly made it take on a whole new meaning.

The Chaplaincy Team has now put together a Quiet Day, for the 9th and 10th September at Alison House, making use of this video to explore what 'The Seven Circles of Prayer' might mean for us in Toc H. Meanwhile, I offer a brief outline below of the seven circles together with suggestions as to how we might step into them. Take each, one by one; be patient with yourself; and just maybe you will discover prayer in a way you have never dreamt of before.

THE FIRST CIRCLE - SPACE

"Jesus said, 'Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest a while.'" (Mark 6 v.31)

Make yourself a little space in the hustle and bustle of life; a place where for a few moments you can reflect undisturbed and get life into perspective. Remember, prayer is not finally about finding the right words or doing the right thing. It is about meeting with God. Ask Him to fill the space.

THE SECOND CIRCLE - SILENCE

"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46.10)

Immerse yourself for a few moments in the luxury of silence. Remember God wants to speak with you. So instead of trying to express all those things that fill your mind, just enjoy something of the peace of God - the peace that passes all understanding.

THE THIRD CIRCLE - SEEING

"One thing I know, that though I was Blind, now I see." (John 9 v.25)

Stop what you are doing and look around you. If you have found time for space and silence then you will begin to see yourself and those about you in a new light. You will see answers where before you only saw questions. You will glimpse more clearly the worth of others and also of yourself. You will not see simply with your own eyes but with God's.

THE FOURTH CIRCLE - SUFFERING

"If any member of the body suffers, all suffer with it." (1 Corinthians 12 v.26)

Praying for others meaningfully is hard, yet it can draw us closer as few things else. Don't attempt to pray for the whole world. Think rather of one or two people - imagine what it feels like to be in their shoes - try and see life from their point of view. Share their joys, hopes and dreams, but also their burdens, frustrations and anxieties. When you do that you will step into the Circle of Suffering.

THE FIFTH CIRCLE - TOUCHING

"Deeply moved, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him." (Mark 1 v.41)

In the last circle of prayer you shared with

DISCOVERING PRAYER ... continued

someone in their suffering. Now reach out in your imagination and touch them. What is it they need at the moment? Perhaps simply a handshake to let them know they are accepted. Maybe a shoulder to lean on. Perhaps a pat on the back to show appreciation. Or maybe a hug to offer comfort. Never mind that you cannot literally touch them - God can!

THE SIXTH CIRCLE - LISTENING

"Understand this, let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak." (James 1 v.19)

Listening is never easy. We all like to have our own say. Even when we seem to be listening it is not always the case, our minds are often miles away. And that can be true even in prayer. We are good at talking to God; not so good at listening to Him. Yet that should be the heart of prayer. What has God said to you through the Scriptures, through fellowship, through silence? Make time to listen for

the "still, small voice" - it may surprise you!

THE FINAL CIRCLE - FACE TO FACE

"Now we see in a glass dimly, then we will see face to face." (1 Corinthians v. 13.12)

We will never see God fully, not in this life at least, but through Christ He has revealed the extent of his love. If you have made time for the first six circles of prayer you will find yourself stepping into the seventh, for you will experience something of the grace of Christ reaching out to you, and glimpse for yourself something of His love.

Revd Nick Fawcett

Chaplain/Development Officer, Division 2

A summary of this article is available as a leaflet from the Chaplaincy Team.

If you would like further details about the Quiet Day on the 9th & 10th September please contact John Biggerstaff at Central Services.

SNAPSHOTS

a flavour of Toc H events around the country

TOC H AIRMAN COMMEMORATED 56 YEARS ON

The tragic death of Pilot Officer Edward 'Teddy' Arnold was commemorated recently. fifty-six years ago the Halifax bomber in which he was Observer was shot down by friendly fire on what is now the 14th hole of Merrist Wood college golf course at Worplesdon.

The unveiling ceremony, attended by over 70 people, was the culmination of a two-year campaign by Aldershot historian Dennis Hoppe to honour the RAF bomber crew. With the help of local people he set about finding the exact crash site. A highly sensitive metal detector was used to find a complete Merlin engine and other items, including the pilot's charred cigarette lighter.

The crew of F-Freddie of 35 Squadron were mistaken for Germans and shot down over

Surrey by a British nightfighter as they returned from their maiden mission in France in March 1941. Two of the crew parachuted to safety but four others died in the wreckage of the Halifax bomber.

'Teddy' Arnold was great friends with George Dench, another member of Toc H and George was able to assist Mr Hoppe greatly with his research. Teddy and his father were both members of the Leatherhead Branch, where George was Branch Secretary, at the time of the tragedy.



Pilot Officer Edward Arnold

HandER L.F.G. HITS BEVERLEY TOWN

Before March of this year, the town of Beverley didn't have much going for it. OK so it had one of the most beautiful and majestic minsters in the country, a thriving weekly market on Saturdays, the Army Transport Museum, Beverley Westwood, and the racecourse, but mention the name of Toc H and "what's that?" would be the cry! Things are about to change! Toc H has a brand new Group for the North East and Division one - HandER L.F.G (Hull and East Riding - Local Fundraising Group).

Having held two initial meetings to which a variety of people were invited either by letter or through the local media, HandER was on its way (with a lot of support from Stuart Wroe - Fundraising Officer for Division 1). Events so far have included a car boot sale, card sale and of course, Talbot the bear. These small events have helped to keep the enthusiasm going and maintain our profile in the local area, prior to our first major fundraising event.....HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE MEXICAN HAT PLANT? (or The Great Toc H Bring and Buy Plant Sale).

On Saturday 17th May the morning dawned brightly (OK - so it was misty and damp!) and volunteers were camped out on our doorstep (OK - so Stuart was the only one who came and helped!). By 8.30am the stall was set up, and the early shoppers really were flocking to the stall, keeping the three of us really busy! Our advertising could have been better but even so we had a great response, with many people pausing to share a memory of Toc H "in the old days" before they left with their bargains (and a Toc H leaflet of course!).

Having recycled almost a year's supply of carrier bags and sold all but a few trays of plants, we were tired but elated by 1.30pm. Not only had people gone away with a new impression of Toc H, but £124 had been raised for Toc H work in the Division. At long last our back garden ceased to look like Kew Gardens, and all the months of hard work pricking out seedlings, watering tray after tray of plants (and talking to them!) had finally paid off. As

for those Mexican Hat Plants, well... Stuart Wroe is the man who knows all! Why not ask him and then buy one from us!

In addition to the success of the plant sale, three people who had been touched by Toc H in the past made contact following the local press coverage to request information, offer support or just wish us good luck. This also resulted in some information about former Branches in the Hull

area, including those at Willerby, Anlaby and Hessle. We are hoping to find out more about the history of Toc H in this area with a view to holding a 'Memories' exhibition.

During the first week of June we are mounting a display about Toc H in Beverley Library. The last week in August will see our second

major event, when we will

be stocking and running a market stall. We are hoping to combine this with a street collection. Anyone out there who fancies visiting the lovely market and minster town of Beverley (now with its own Toc H Group!) and helping us, please contact us.

Alison and Richard Newby
Beverley



Stuart bartering with customers.

COLWYN BAY BIRTHDAY

Colwyn Bay Branch celebrated its 70th Birthday on 19th April with a Service and Rededication followed by tea at the English Methodist Church in Old Colwyn. Over 40 members and friends attended and many old friendships were renewed. There was also a display of events over the 70 years of the Branch in the main Library in Colwyn Bay which was admired by many people.

John P Grocott
Secretary, Colwyn Bay Branch

TURNING THE CHALLENGE ROUND

Mark and Steve - the Toc H Atlantic Challenge team - have just helped to break a world record for continuous rowing on a rowing machine during an event in April at Bournemouth University.

Our boys, along with a number of other athletes, thoroughly smashed the old record by rowing for 17 days and earned the right to nominate a charity to receive the proceeds of the event. Of course they chose Toc H and Daphne Godfrey, Chairman of Poole Branch, gratefully accepted a cheque for £250.

To Mark and Steve it was all part of the training for the 'big' race which starts on the 12th October. Fitting several hours training into every day, on top of family and work commitments, has not been easy. They are also the force behind a team that is ploughing through a list of events that most of us can only dream of. Just

some of the activities in the last 15 months include activity days for children at special schools, displays at County shows, fetes, regattas, and a carnival procession float. In addition they have given talks, made television and radio appearances and had 40 or more articles published. Our two rowers also attended a recent event, a ball, despite having just emerged from four days in an environmental chamber, during which time they were submitted to all that the Atlantic might present.

The future programme is just as varied - activity days for children with learning difficulties; line dancing sessions; and the publication of a teaching pack for use in primary schools.

When the Atlantic Challenge started it seemed as though Mark and Steve were taking on an incredible personal challenge, not only in the race, but in getting involved with Toc H. It looks to me now like THEY are challenging the rest of US in Toc H.

Jim Simpson

LETTERS

feedback from readers, members and those involved in Toc H

- I was very encouraged by John Mitchell's article in the April Issue of Point 3 on Human Rights. I think he has it exactly right. For me many so called rights have no practical applications, for instance the right to food, clothing and shelter. If put into practice to a standard acceptable nowadays it would have to include such present day necessities as a colour television, a washing machine, etc. Not only would there be no incentive to earn a living but the immigration pressure would be overwhelming. But I haven't written this letter to point out the obvious. I was born and brought up on a small farm in western Canada and spent my later teenage years in the Great Depression which began with the Wall Street crash of 1929 and which included, amongst other things, the collapse in the price of farm produce. Many in other occupations fared even worse, but there were, of course, others who fared very well due to the lower cost of living. Neither in the United States nor Canada was there any unemployment benefit or national welfare, so everyone had to fend for themselves. But not to worry, we all shared the great American Declaration that "All men (and presumably women) are created equal" so it must be your fault if you are down, and sometimes out. Somewhere along the line you have done something wrong or foolish. But you still have "Inalienable Rights". Among these are "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". Nature is no respecter of life so that's out - millions have died through so-called acts of God. Liberty by itself is not too bad, but liberty to pursue happiness must lead to disappointment when one arrives at the inevitable conclusion that happiness cannot be pursued, one just cannot find happiness that way. I am not averse to rights as such, only to those grand declarations which sound so splendid but are so misleading. I would prefer wrongs to be dealt with individually and I think

one would find that they can only be cured by a generous dose of responsibility. So let's go for a "Declaration of Human Responsibilities" as John suggests.

Peter Sutton
Wantage

- Living in The (Birmingham Toc H) Community House has been an experience - challenging, valuable, frustrating, educational, special. I learned much, both about myself and others. About space and togetherness. About solitude and teamwork. Residents come and residents go and all bring something unique. My experience in The House was touched by the friendships I discovered with my housemates. Toc H House has been a refuge for me - an oasis of community amidst the city of Birmingham, which despite being my home town, sometimes feels unutterably alien. Living in The House drove me to despair at times. Clashes of personality, kitchen chaos, communication collapse and moments of conflict. At the same time, we had many hearty meals, vibrant conversations and heady nights of spontaneous music making. We debated, argued, disagreed, fell into silence, listened, supported, cooked, cared for and were in the company of each other. I want to thank Gareth for conversations and forays onto Moseley Bog, for steadiness and for listening and for faith; Alison for teaching me about communication, sheer determination and fighting spirit and for those amazing pizzas and for access to the 'technology'; Connie for her commitment to fairmindedness, for the example of doing now what needs to be done, and still finding time for projects, in spite of work; and Paul for that infectious laugh and for reminding me that we can choose to see the glass not half-empty, but half-full.....
Much love to all at Toc H

Linda Hull
USA

JACK TREFUSIS

a man characterised by calmness, presence of mind and diplomacy



It is curiously ironic that the incident for which Jack Trefusis is most celebrated took place during those violent and dangerous days after the DDay landings of June 1944. For Jack was, above all else, a man of peace who devoted much of his time and

considerable energy and expertise to encouraging greater understanding between people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. He would have smiled at the prominence given to his extraordinary exploits as the first British Officer to enter occupied Brussels following the advance from Normandy, for he was most reticent about his wartime experiences. The tale, nevertheless, demonstrates the qualities of calmness, presence of mind and diplomacy which were so characteristic of the man.

Under orders to return to the city the Burgomaster of Brussels - Mons van der Meulebroek - who was being held by the Germans some distance away, Trefusis first made his way through German lines, assisted by the Belgian Resistance. He then waited in the depths of a police station until van der Meulebroek was brought, equally secretly, by other Belgian resistance workers, to a nearby hotel. With his customary enterprise and aplomb Trefusis clambered, unabashed, through a lavatory window, scaled the wall of the hotel and greeted an astonished Burgomaster enthusiastically in his own language. Next he made his way to the Hotel de Ville in Brussels Grande Place, where he discovered a substantial group of enemy soldiers preparing to burn the building before withdrawing. In fluent German, and doubtless in his most authoritative Guards Officer style, Trefusis convinced the soldiers that the city was now occupied by the Allies, that he was in command and that they were now prisoners of war. Although the presence of German tanks in the Grande Place might have suggested that Trefusis was rather overstating his case, the Germans were so astounded at the confrontation that they conceded immediately. Trefusis then produced van der Meulebroek and,

to the delight of the growing crowd of Belgians filling the Square, administered to him the oath of allegiance to the King of the Belgians, reinstalled him as Burgomaster in the Hotel de Ville. Twenty-four hours later Trefusis was once again prominent in ceremonial, as the recipient of the official speeches of welcome to the British Forces by the new Burgomaster and senior Belgian Army Officers.

The contribution Trefusis made in peacetime may have been less dramatic, but it continued to demonstrate his concern to resolve conflict and to foster goodwill. He joined Toc H in 1953 and found a particular affinity with Talbot House. He became an enthusiastic President of the Talbot House Association in 1958, holding that office for 28 years with enormous dignity and style. There are considerable differences of approach between the British and the Flemings, yet Trefusis was always able to maintain remarkably close relations with an astonishingly wide range of people throughout Britain, Belgium and beyond, and to broker lasting agreement and understanding between groups of people of disparate backgrounds. The continuing success of Talbot House as an international centre for the study of conflict resolution, as well as a memorial of the Great War, is amongst his greatest achievements.

Born in 1914, Trefusis was educated at Brighton College. His career began with a brief stint in the diplomatic world where he always claimed his greatest achievement was to have met, in the British Embassy in Copenhagen in 1954, Shirley Scott Barton whom he married the following year. He went on to become a distinguished engineer and Director General of the Hydraulics Association. His contribution to Anglo-Belgian relations was recognised in 1987 when he was awarded, by King Baudouin, the Order of the Crown of Belgium. Ironically, he last visited Talbot House in September 1996 to greet Baudouin's successor, King Albert. Toc H exhorts its members 't/o love widely, to build bravely, to think fairly and to witness humbly.' Few can have followed these precepts with more devotion than Jack Trefusis.

Noel Cornick

President of the Talbot House Association

CHANGES TO TOC H MEMBERSHIP

fresh faces and fond farewells

Every member makes an invaluable, individual contribution to Toc H. In a regular feature, **Point 3** acknowledges both those who are new to membership and those who sadly have passed on. In welcoming new members we hope to give you a flavour of the person behind the name by listing the 'hidden talents' individuals have told us about on their application form. The Tributes and Farewells provide a limited opportunity to recognise the individual contributions made by those whose membership has sadly come to a close.

WELCOMES

- **Richard Davenport**, member of Avon District Branch.
- **Allan Coggan**, member of Barrow on Humber Branch. Allen enjoys gardening.
- **Roaslie Coggan**, member of Barrow on Humber Branch. Rosalie enjoys craftwork.
- **Frederick Pateman**, member of Buckingham Branch.
- **Pauline Kruppa**, member of Chiltern Hills Branch. Pauline is a retired school teacher.
- **Verina Davenport**, member of Downend Branch.
- **Marcia Wengradt**, member of Falmouth Branch. Marcia is an owner of a care home, secretary of a Tenants Association and involved with Cornwall Air Ambulance.
- **John Clamp**, member of Jedburgh Branch.
- **David Wallace**, member of North Walsham Branch. David has 9 years teaching experience and is a methodist preacher. He is also a trainee programmer.
- **Alan Thomasson**, member of Much Wenlock Branch.
- **Claire Wallace**, member of Tyne & Wear Branch.
- **Helen Greef**, member of Mid Norfolk/Norwich District Branch.
- **John Hill**, member of Somerset District Branch. John's interests include model boats (making & sailing), and volunteer bus driving.
- **Alison Bryan**, member of Mid Eastern Region Branch.

TRIBUTES

- **Frank Edward Moysen** - Frank joined Solihull Branch in February, 1963 and remained with the Branch until his death at the age of 81 in April. He served as Secretary for seven years, was Branch Chairman in 1975 and 1976 and had acted also as Programme Secretary. He was actively engaged with his wife, Margaret, in running the Solihull Toc H Blind Club for more than seven years, until they moved from the area to Banbury, in 1992.
- **Muriel Morse** - Muriel was a member of the Knowle Ladies Branch for over thirty years and though she never held office within the group, she was Keeper of the Lamp. She was very supportive of the Branch over the years and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. **DD**
- **Archie Phaup** - Archie, the longest serving member of the Selkirk Branch, was a man who truly followed the way of the Compass. **JP**
- **John Nicholson** - Jack spent all his adult life in the work of Toc H, and in that time held all positions in the Branch with great distinction, including a term as Central Councillor. Jack gave a lot of love and inspiration to many people, young and

old alike, entering the Movement and also those outside of Toc H. In the Sunderland area Jack pioneered bringing hospital radio and the library system to local hospitals. He will be greatly missed in Toc H, a Movement which he loved till the end. **JB**

- **Revd Basil Jones** - the passing of the Revd E J Basil Jones in May brought the end to almost a half century of service within the church and Toc H. It was in Rhyl in the 40s that Basil began his ministry, along with three other Curates in the Parish. The Vicar decided to allocate specific work to each of his staff, and by what must have been a stroke of sheer genius, he asked Basil to look after and support the Toc H Branches in the district.

Basil liked what he found there, particularly the fellowship and what we now call the "spirit". He was particularly taken up with the Four Points and his little booklet on this (still available) helped many members to a clearer understanding of what being in Toc H called for.

Though his ministry took him to the little parish of Llanuwchllyn at the end of Bala Lake, with its few scattered parishioners and thousands of sheep, then on to Altrincham and Sandiway, his contact with Toc H was never broken. He was always willing to speak at Branch and District gatherings where, with his host of real life stories, he would get his message over. He was a tower of strength when it came to the organisation of the larger and Regional Festivals which have always been so successful.

Whilst he always enjoyed the opportunity to "pass on the spirit" perhaps his work at the Annual Summer School held in Bangor stands supreme in the memory, for there with (Padre) John Jones, Ian Fraser, Bob Knight, and many other of the Greats in our Movement, he would lead the thinking on the theme for the week and the purpose of the gathering.

We who had the privilege of sharing even part of the journey with Basil will be grateful, but we will miss him. **CHC**

FAREWELLS

- **Alan James**, member of Alfreton Branch.
- **Archie Phaup**, member of Selkirk Branch.
- **Edward Fletcher**, member of South Eastern Region.
- **Basil Jones**, member of Conwy District.
- **Brian Luke**, member of Chalfonts Branch.
- **Frank Moysen**, member of Solihull Branch.
- **Nellie Wardleworth**, member of Oldham Branch.
- **Betty Buckley**, member of Norwich Branch.

• IDEAS NEEDED FOR TRAINING PACKAGE

I have recently helped deliver the new Project Leaders training package to trainers. The feedback to the Training Group so far has been that the new written information for Project Leaders is very good, but that it is missing practical ideas on reflection, ice-breakers and games for groups.

The Training Group would like to get some ideas on these areas on to paper, so that they are available as a resource for new Project Leaders. I have volunteered to compile this information.

I don't want to re-invent the wheel, so this

is a plea to anyone with some good practical examples of reflections and ice-breakers to let me have their ideas so that we can put them all together and pass that knowledge on. Please send your ideas to:

54 Dinas Street
Grangetown
Cardiff
CF1 7QZ

Ann Powell

- The 'Intersessions across the World' booklet has been newly updated and revised. Free copies are available from the beginning of July from Central Services. All Toc H units - Branches, Groups etc; will be receiving copies in the near future.

WHAT'S ON

a guide to forthcoming Toc H events and opportunities

• QUIET DAY - SEVEN CIRCLES OF PRAYER

9th-10th September
Alison House
Cost: £40 *

A day of reflection centring on the concept of the Seven Circles of Prayer. See page 9 of this issue for more details. To reserve your place contact John Biggerstaff at Central Services.

** If you would like to attend the event but find the cost prohibitive, a subsidy is available on request.*

• KENT DAY

20th September
Bank Street Church, Ashford
For Details Tel: 01303 269407

• TOC H AREA RALLY

11th October
Kempston, Bedfordshire

The Toc H South East Regional Rally is to be held at The Church of The Transfiguration, Kempston, where lunch, a speaker and entertainment will be the order of the day. If you would like to reserve your place or find out more, contact Jack Turner, Tel: 01234 768410

... continued from the back cover

John Howard House with a sewing machine.

1978: three members were privileged to visit Clayton House for the official opening by H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

1979 onwards: we took part in fundraising Bric-a-Brac Stalls and Coffee Mornings which enabled us not only to fulfil our commitment to Toc H finances but also to sponsor various good causes, including supporting a sponsored walk in aid of the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Unit; a Clayton Volunteer working in America with disadvantaged children; a local student who took part in Operation Raleigh; and two

teenagers who joined one of the Tall Ship adventures.

1990: a member, Maud Walker, was presented to Princess Diana who came to open the Barclay Workshops for the Blind.

1997: from a small beginning in 1939, the Brighton Branch grew from strength to strength, but many changes have taken place and sadly the Branch has had to close. We shall not see our Diamond Jubilee but we shall continue our fellowship, meeting informally together probably monthly.

You may remember that in last month's Point 3 we reported the closure of the Brighton Branch. While tying up the loose ends, a Member of the Branch came across archive materials herself which enabled her to put together a potted history of the Branch. Reproduced here are some edited highlights.

Reading them through one is struck by the commitment and hard work shown by

12th April 1939 at a meeting held in Hove, it was decided to re-start a League of Women Helpers in Brighton but with meetings in HOVE!

24th May 1939 the Group - known as Brighton & Hove - received its rushlight and was officially recognised.

Feb. 1940: war had broken out, so it was decided to hold meetings fortnightly - originally on Sundays, then it became Monday evenings. This presented difficulties as some members wanted to arrive and leave early because of the curfew in some parts of the town; others could not arrive until late because of their work - some members had been evacuated with their firms from London to Brighton. Anyway this difficulty, and the many others which wartime presented, were overcome. The main jobs undertaken included helping with a canteen for the troops and befriending evacuees - mothers and children from London. "Farthing bundles" were also made up for the Fern Street Settlement in the East End of London.

27th May 1940: the B & H unit celebrated its first Birthday - a Rededication Service conducted by a Revd. Campbell-Morgan.

Just how strict and efficient the Branch Committee sought to be during this period is illustrated in an extract from the Branch minutes:

6th July 1942: "As the Chairman had failed to turn up at her first Committee meeting, Dorothy was instructed to write an official letter expressing the Committee's regretful dissatisfaction with the apparent lack of a sense of responsibility as regards time-keeping and office bearing".

1943: the Branch must have proved its worth and was presented with a lamp. The Revd Eric Parry Jennings became Padre to the Branch - an office he held until 1960.

1946: the war having ended there was no further need to help with canteens and evacuees. The Branch took on a corporate job of helping 30 local boys and was asked to organise a club for girls from 7-14 years. However both these jobs ended within a year.

1948: saw the start of the Children's Holiday Scheme, with 133 London children being given a

the members across the years, not only in maintaining the Branch but in actively serving the community. As with most archive material, they also offer a narrative of the times. They highlight and inform us of some of the many events of the day and, in the lifestyles, mood and mind-set of the Branch members, we see reflected the society of the times. How many names and events do you recognise and remember? SC

holiday in Brighton. This continued for several years until it became apparent that the need no longer existed.

1949: another corporate job in conjunction with the Men's Branch was started as a result of our contact with the East Sussex Association for the care of cripples. The "Non-Runners club" for people with disabilities was formed and Toc H ran the club for eight years, before it was handed over to the club members themselves.

July 1952: Mollie Oxenford was asked to carry the Branch Lamp at the Toc H (W.A) Festival at The Albert Hall.

1954: The Toc H Follies, a Branch Concert Party, came into being. Not only did we entertain locals but we also went on tour! This came to an end when our excellent pianist left to get married.

1956: we held the first of several annual Guest afternoons for Builders and Friends.

1960: we held our 21st Birthday Party. Revd P Jennings resigned and Revd A Webb was appointed.

1961: the Toc H Southern Counties Fair was held. The Duchess of Devonshire opened the Fair and The Queen Mother donated a tea service which was sold at the Fair.

1962: a doctor came from India to work at the New Sussex Hospital in Brighton. At that time her father was Editor of "The Lamp", the Toc H Journal of India. Thereafter, Brighton kept in contact with the Madras Branch for many years.

1964: Gertrude Matthews won a prize for readings in Braille at a contest held at the National Library for the Blind in London.

1972: a Festival of Remembrance was held in conjunction with The Dome Mission.

Oct. 1975: the Diamond Jubilee of Toc H was celebrated with a service, followed by a luncheon and tea. The Revd 'Polly' Perkins presented the sermon and Colin Campell (Toc H staff) was the Guest Speaker.

1977: saw the Silver Jubilee of H.M. II Queen Elizabeth and to mark the occasion we presented

continued on the inside back cover ...